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THE OBSERVATOR.

A further Account of the Expulsion of the Tarquins *from the* Roman *Throne. Of the Plots to restore them, and how the Plotters were punish'd. The* Examiner, Numb. 19. *consider'd. His Memory short, but his Malice strong.*

From Wednesday, December 6. to Saturday, December 9. 1710.

Countrym. I Was hugely pleas'd last day, Master, with the Story of the *Tarquins* who play'd the Tyrant at *Rome*; pray give me some further Account of them: They were very cunning Men, I perceive; their History may be of use to us Country-Folks, and teach us how to beware of such Tricks, if we can.

Obs. Livy tells us, *Roger*, that the first of them was of foreign Race, and came to the *Roman* Throne by Cunning. His Son was *Tarquin the Proud*, a very Tyrant, and his Wife a bloody Virago. He pretended to a Divine Hereditary Right, tho his Father had no Title but the Choice of the People, and was the first *Roman* King that made use of a constant Military Guard: He lessen'd the Power of the Senate, acted in every thing without their Consent, and cut off the Chief of their Members. Knowing that his Subjects did not love him, he took all possible Methods to make them fear him; and to this end fin'd, banish'd and put to Death those he suspected, or by whose Estates he cou'd fill his Treasury. He govern'd all by private Cabals, assum'd to himself alone the sole Power of making Peace and War, contracted and dissolv'd Leagues and Alliances as he pleas'd, without the Consent of the Senate. He strengthen'd himself by foreign Alliances, and cut off his Nobles under the pretence of Plots; particularly the brave *Turnus*, who inveigh'd against his Tyranny in an Assembly of the Nobility: He first lodg'd Arms in his House, without his Knowledg, and then accus'd him of a Conspiracy; for which the Arms found about him were produc'd in Evidence, and *Turnus* unjustly condemn'd.

Countrym. Hey-day, Master; then I find some Folks learnt their Principles and Practices of Tyranny, Sham-Plots and Murders, as well as of Religion, from *Rome*. I thought Gammer *Cellier*'s Meal-Tub Plot, and *Dangerfield*'s lodging treasonable Papers in the Houses of such as the Court had a mind to cut off in the Reign of *Charles* II. had been Originals; but I perceive they were only Copies. However, they were much apter Scholars than our modern Plot-Wrights, who charg'd the Dissenters with burning their own Meeting-Houses, and who contriv'd the *St. Pauls* Screw-Plot; for they had not the Sense to lodg Papers and Screws with some Fanaticks or Low Churchmen, and to order it so, as to have them found about them upon search. 'Twas happy, Master, that their Wit could not keep pace with their Malice.

Obs. Don't you teach them, *Roger*, they need no Prompter, I can assure you they come on apace. The Fellow who was taken at *Okehampton*, pasting up a Paper on the Church-Door, in the name of the Dissenters, last Winter, during the *Sacheverellite* Tumults; and those who publish'd Papers at the same time here in *London*, with sham Accounts of Dissenters being taken among the Mob that burnt the Meeting-Houses; and the *Postboy*, who impudently publish'd, that those who defac'd K. *William*'s Statue in *Dublin*, were Presbyterian Apprentices; are sufficient Proofs that the Party will prove very good Scholars in time. The Writer of the *Secret History of* Arlus *and* Odolphus, the *New Atalantis*, and even Mr. *Ex—r* seem to be no mean Proficients: So that if you'l have but a little Patience, you may see them make very noble Efforts towards striking off the Heads of the tall Poppies. The Fellow taken lately, as endeavouring to set fire to a Meeting House near *Warminster*, in which combustible Matter was lodg'd beforehand (as was done by the Mob last year in Mr. *Wright*'s Meeting-House at *Black-Fryars*) is enough to convince you that the Party is not idle.

Countrym. I am well satisfy'd of that, Master: But pray go on with your Account of the *Tarquins*.

Obs. Roger, I told you last day from *Livy*, that old *Tarquin* oppress'd the People; among other ways, by imploying them to build a High Church on the *Tarpeian* Mountain, which his Father had begun, and he compleated it, that he might leave a Monument of his Reign and Name behind him; and that this High Church might be a topping one indeed, he resolv'd to unhallow all the rest of the Churches and Chappels, that none but his shou'd pretend to the name of a Church; yet the Fanatical or Low-Church Proprietors of the Temple of *Terminus* stood their Ground, and wou'd not allow their Church to be unhallow'd.

Countrym. Well, and what came on't at last, Master?

Obs. After *Tarquin* had oppress'd the People to build his High Church, he imploy'd them in digging Common-Shoars, to receive all the Filth of the City.

Countrym. A pretty Story indeed, Master! I perceive that Bigotry and Superstition always end in the vilest of Slavery: But pray go on.

Obs. Tarquin having render'd himself hateful to the People, the Rape committed upon *Lucretia*, a noble Matron by his Son *Sextus* (for Grief of which she stab'd herself) made *Brutus* and others of the Nobility to lay hold on that occasion, to expel him and his Family; as much to the Joy of the People and Army, as some body else was, within the Memory of Man, for a Rape on the Church and Liberties of *England*. But as I told you last day, several Great Men, who had been Sharers in his Tyranny, and Fellow-Debauchees with the young *Tarquins*, were uneasy at the Change of Government; they did not love to be under the Curb of Law, and having found that Tyranny always incourag'd Licentiousness, they said that the present Method of Administration was fitter for Beggars than Gentlemen: much like the Dialect of a modern Writer, who ailedg'd, that those lately imploy'd in the Government were scarce good for

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any thing but to wear Liveries. Thus they went about to engage the Affections of the unwary young Noblemen, who receiv'd their Suggeſtions very kindly, and were at laſt brought into a Plot for reſtoring the *Tarquin* Family, and bringing them privately into the City by night. They made a great progreſs in it, and engag'd ſome of the Relations of thoſe who had the Adminiſtration, and even the Conſul's own Sons: But juſt as they were ready to put it in execution, 'twas diſcover'd by a Servant who overheard them, the Plotters were taken up, and the Deſign prevented.

Countrym. And what came of the Plotters, Maſter? Surely the Conſul would be favourable to his own Sons and Relations, and give them Reprieves at leaſt, if not Pardons.

Obſ. No, *Roger*; thoſe Brave Patriots of the *Roman* Liberty ever prefer'd the Good of their Country to all other Intereſts and Conſiderations. The Conſul *Brutus* ſaw Execution done upon his own Children, with as much Unconcernedneſs as if they had been no way related to him: and the reſt of the Conſpirators, tho young Men of Quality, were faſten'd to Stakes, whip'd by the Lictors, and then beheaded by their own Fathers. I muſt confeſs that to us this would ſeem barbarous, *Roger*; but it ſhews the Greatneſs of that Vertue which advanc'd the *Roman* Government to ſo much Grandeur, and procur'd 'em not only the univerſal Eſteem, but the Dominion of the whole World. In this they follow'd the Law which God gave to the Jews, *Deut.* 13. 'That if their *Brother, Son, Daughter, Wife of their Boſom, or Friend that was as their own Soul*, entic'd the People to go after falſe Gods (and ſuch was the Crime of the *Tarquins*, in the opinion of the *Romans*) their Eye was not to pity them, their Hand to ſpare them, nor were they to conceal them; but their own Hand was to be firſt upon them, and then that of all the People.'

Countrym. We may ſee by this, Maſter, how thoſe Men would have paſs'd their time among the *Jews* and brave antient *Romans*, who are for a foreign Government and Idolatry; which in the modern Dialect we may call a *French* Government and Popiſh Religion. I perceive thoſe People were of the ſame opinion with *Athanaſius*, the Author of one of our Creeds (tho ſo many of our Churchmen do now condemn his Doctrine) who approv'd what the Biſhop of *Cagliari* wrote to the Emperor *Conſtantius*, That he deſerv'd to be puniſh'd for countenancing Idolaters, according to the Law of the *Jews*. Certainly thoſe People would never have ſuffer'd themſelves to be Prieſt-ridden into Idolatry and Tyranny, under a pretence of a Divine, Indefeaſible, Hereditary Right, and Unlimited Paſſive Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance; ſince they did not ſpare their neareſt Relations, who went about to ſubvert their Conſtitution and Religion. But pray let us talk a little with Mr. *Examiner*: Have you conſider'd his Paper of the 7th Inſtant?

Obſ. I have look'd on it, *Roger*, and take notice of his Apology for reflecting on the late Miniſtry. As to which I ſhall tell him that his Memory ſeems very ſhort, when he ſays he has named no Perſons, tho he expreſly named the General and the late Miniſtry in his Paper, *N°.* 17. with ſuch an odious Charge, that if true, they deſerve to be the Averſion of all Mankind; but if falſe, 'tis eaſy to know what he deſerves. Beſides, *Roger*, let him take it as he will, I muſt ſtill tell him, it had been Good Manners to have ſtaid till they had been accus'd by an Authority equal to that by which they have been approv'd. He is pleas'd to ask by way of banter in that ſame Paper; 'Has 'the Duke of *M*——— been accus'd of High 'Crimes and Miſdemeanours? Has he been hooted 'at as he paſs'd the Streets by an ungrateful Mob?' To the firſt we may readily anſwer, That he has been accus'd by the *Examiner* ſeveral times of High Crimes and Miſdemeanours: In that ſame Paper he charges him to have been wanting in due Submiſſion and Reſpect to her Majeſty's Sacred Perſon and Commands, by which he deſerves univerſal Hatred: which is a ſufficient Anſwer to the ſecond Queſtion, that it will not be owing to the *Examiner* if he be not hooted at and inſulted in the Streets by the ungrateful Mob whenever he comes home. And conſidering how that ſame polite Author has treated the late Miniſtry, 'tis more owing to ſomewhat elſe, than the *Examiner's* Good-nature or Breeding, 'That *John* the Preſident of 'the Coach-Box, Mr. *Oldfox* the Receiver, the ig-'norant, wilful, aſſuming, and ill-inclin'd Clerks '*Charles* and *Harry*, *Will. Bigamy* the Seneſchal, and '*Verres* the Proconſul;' have not been mob'd. He has taken care to point them out ſo as the Mob can't eaſily miſtake them: for after his Charge on the late Miniſtry by name in his Paper, *Novemb.* 13. and thoſe lovely Deſignations in his Paper of the 30th of that Month, 'tis eaſy to know his Meaning. If the *Examiner* pleaſes to conſult the Learned in the Law, or what was ſaid by the Counſel againſt Dr. *Sacheverel* in the Caſe *de Libellis Famoſis*, that the Law has guarded every private Man's Reputation ſo as not to be blaſted by oblique Turns and ſcandalous Inſinuations; he may perhaps be let into the Merit of his *John Preſident* of the Coach-Box, *&c.* But more of this another time, *Roger*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

☞ *Schema Sacrum*: or, A Sacred Scheme of Natural and Revealed Religion; making a Scriptural—Rational Account of theſe three Heads: As firſt, Of *Creation*, and that both in its Eternal Cauſes and Springs in the Deity, and in the wonderful Procedure in the ſix Days Work. And ſecondly, Of the whole Complex Eternal Scheme of *Divine Predeſtination*; as comprehending the whole great Events relative to Angels and Men, with reſpect to Time and Eternity. And thirdly, Of the *Wiſe Divine Procedure* in accompliſhing the whole Parts of the aforeſaid Scheme. In Diſcourſing of all which Heads, the ſeveral principal Difficulties made by the great Pretenders to Reaſon in our day, againſt the Doctrine of the World's Creation by God, the eternal Decrees of Divine Predeſtination, the Conſtitution of *Adam* as the moral Head and Repreſentative of all his Poſterity, the Divine Permiſſion of the Fall of Man, the real and proper Satisfaction of Juſtice by the Subſtitution and Obedience of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt in the name and room of the Elect; together with the alledg'd Unaccountableneſs of the Supernatural Operations of the Holy Ghoſt in the Regeneration and Sanctification of the Elect of God: are all particularly conſider'd, clear'd, and remov'd by Anſwers and Arguments founded upon Infallible Scripture and Solid Reaſon. By *Tho. Blackwell*, Miniſter of the Goſpel in *Scotland*. *Edinburgh*, Printed by the Heirs and Succeſſors of *Andrew Anderſon*, Printer to the Queen's moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1710. And ſold by *A. Bell* at the Croſs-Keys and Bible in *Cornhil*.

†‡† The Danger of the Church inquir'd into. Price 2 *d.* Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*.

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